

12.

THE CHARGE OF THE Admirals of England.

Licensed according to Order.

28. Nov. 1693.

AS *England* is Wall'd round with a Wall of Water, Her Defence of that Wall by Her Floating Castles, Her Naval Strength and Management, is her greatest, if not almost Her only Bulwarks and Rampants. This is most certain, as the *British* Empire holds a two-fold Regale, Her Scepter, and Her Trident; Her Dominion at Land, and Her Sovereignty at Sea; so, that Maritime Principality being the Frontiers and Out-lines of Her whole Power and Territories, and consequently Her chiefest Strength, as being Her only Inlet; that Deputed Hand, that under the Imperial Commission, has the Charge of Her Admiralty, has the highest Post of Honour, and the most Important Trust that a Crown'd Head can lodge in a Subject. For, as no At-
taque can be made upon *England*, without first gaining Her Mastery of the Sea, the Preservation of that fairest of Her Crown-Jewels is, and ought to be Her ablest Care and Industry.

This is notoriously manifest from the never-dying Fame of our Great *Elizabeth*, where one intire Naval Triumph o're *Spain*, was of more Advantage to this Kingdom, and carried more Trophies along with it, than all the Battles and Successes of a *Third Edward*, or a *Fifth Henry*, in the very Bowels of *France*. For, to summ the whole Grandeur of that Greatest of Potentates, and best of Queens; Her Sword-work at Land, tho' encompassed with Enemies, was nothing to Her Thunder-work at Sea.

The Fortune of that single Stroke, attended with so great a Blow upon *Spain*, and Her prudent Caution of suppressing the Maritime Growth of *France*, even against their great *Fourth Henry* himself, in threatening to burn his Navy in their Harbour for so much as attempting to build a Capital Ship of War, was of that high Import to the *English* Grandeur; that had Her Politicks been pursued, and Her Advantages from that onely Success been rightly improved by Her Masculine, tho' (Heavens knows) more Effeminate Successors, *England* had held the Scale of Europe to the

End of the World, and the present Greatness of *France*, the now Terror of *Christendom*, had been wholly an impracticable Attempt and Ambition.

But as the aforesaid Esteminy of the succeeding Reigns, utterly neglected that fortunate Occasion, and lost the happy *Forelack*; which had we held, we had awed the whole World, and preserved the *English* Greatness, as immortal, as that *Princesses* never-dying Memory, and has thereby so infinitely lessened our Original *British* Lustre: Nevertheless, 'tis not so late, even after all our Losses, and former Mis-managements, to endeavour some part at least of so necessary a Recovery. This Glory at least we have to boast, for our Encouragement, That never more hardy Courage late on the *English* Throne than now. Nor a *Prince*, whose Endeavours and Zeal can be more strenuous, or more indefatigable, for the Redemption of our too long falling Glory. Cou'd all Hands follow; but as this leads, both Fear and Despair would be far from our Doors, and a new Dawn of Hopes surround us.

But to return to our *Admiral's* Cause: As the *Sea* is a *Divisum Imperium*, a separate Sovereignty from that of the *Land*; and accordingly the Laws, by which all Maritime Affairs are tried, are different from the common Law of the Nation; So the *Lord High Admiral* of *England's* Commission, as so much different from any other Command, constitutes him no less than a *Viceroy*; a Title above any other Dignity, or Preferment whatever.

If the Honour of the Command it self be so Eminent and Illustrious, the Faithful and Zealous Execution of it must be truly more Honourable and Illustrious; for indeed 'tis only the Discharge of a Trust, and the Exertion of Virtuous Actions, and Gallant Atchievements, are the true Foundation of Renown and Glory.

As the ever-memorable *Drake* has left a Name that will live as long Time it self shall last; we may likewise add, That our latter Honourable *Admiral Russel* has acquired as large a share of Fame, as true *English* Courage, rewarded with Success and Victory, can well reach. And 'tis highly to be wish'd, that our this present Years latter Expedition, in our *Joynt Commission of Admiralty*, cou'd have met with as fair a Chapplet of Lawrels. But if either any unsmiling Providences above, or unhappier Conduct below, have deny'd us that Blessing; 'tis our Misfortune, that so fair a Chian should ever be broken, and that such Signal Happinesses should be other than the continued show'ring Favours of our kind Stars.

But whether our this Years Unhappiness at *Sea* was *Misfortune*, or *Mis-management*, is a Province above me; 'tis sufficient, that *Sub Judice lis est*. The Cause is depending before the Great Council of the *Land*, Our Patriots in *Parliament* Assembled, whose Vigilance and Wisdom, as they have the Inspection now before them; so their Hands have the Balance, and Scales, to do Justice accordingly.